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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,262	03/13/2001	Masahiro Noguchi	S004-4246	3201

7590

05/12/2003

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NEW YORK, NY 10004

EXAMINER

RAHMJOO, MANUCHER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2676

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

52

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/805,262

Applicant(s)

NOGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Mike Rahmjoo

Art Unit

2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claim 2 line 5 on page 63, the recitation of "...and selecting one among the ..." it is not clear what the "one" is making a reference to.

As per claim 3 line 12 on page 63, the recitation of "...input step a second step..." the language of the claim is not clear.

Further clarification of claims 2 and 3 are required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 2676

Claims 1- 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Khan et al (US Patent 5,844,544), hereinafter, Khan.

As per claims 1, 3 Khan teaches character group display means for displaying a plurality of character groups at one time see for example column 3 lines 5- 10 and figure 2; first direction indication input means and second direction indication input means for inputting a direction indication (four directions of movement; upper and lower, right and left); character group selection means for causing movement to a selected position in response to a direction indication input using the first direction indication input means, and selecting any one among the character groups displayed on the character group display means see for example column 15 lines 14- 45 and figures 2, and 3; and character selection display means for sequentially selecting and displaying any one among characters included in the character group selected using the character group selection means, in response to a direction indication input using the second direction indication input means see for example column 3 lines 20- 27 and column 15 lines 14- 45 and figures 2 and 5.

As per claims 2, 4 Khan teaches alphabetic character display means for switching between upper case and lower case characters in response to a direction indication input using the second direction indication means and displaying a plurality of alphabetic characters at the same time; and alphabetic character selection means for causing movement to a selected position in response to a direction indication input using the first direction indication input means, and selecting one among the alphabetic characters displayed on the alphabetic character display means see for example column 4 lines 21- 31 and column 7 lines 5- 28 and column 15 lines 14-

Art Unit: 2676

45 and figures 1- 5.

As per claims 5 and 6 Khan teaches first display means for displaying character keys corresponding to a plurality of character groups at a display screen as a matrix see for example figures 2 and 5; designating means for designating one character key of character keys displayed by the first display means see for example column 7 lines 5- 16 and column 6 lines 19 –36 and figure 1; and second display means for displaying character keys corresponding to the character group corresponding to the character key designated by the designating means at the display screen as a matrix see for example column 6 lines 19 –36 and figure 1.

As per claims 7- 12 and as per discussions of claims 1- 8 Khan teaches storing step classifying a plurality of character keys into a plurality of groups for storage; designating step designating one of a plurality of groups stored in the storing step; and displaying step displaying character keys classified into groups designated by the designating step at the display screen see for example column 3 lines 41- 47 and figures 2 and 5.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, 6,232,970, 6,232,969, 6,396,482, 5,956,021, 6,522,347, 6,487,424, and 4,655,621.

Art Unit: 2676

### **Inquiry**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Rahmjoo whose telephone number is (703) 305- 5658. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30- 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on (703) 308- 6829. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872- 9314 for regular communications and (703) 872- 9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305- 4750.

Mike Rahmjoo

May 7, 2003



**MATTHEW C. BELLA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**